

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 438
By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to name a bridge on State Route 75 in Sullivan County in honor of Mr. James L. Simmons.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those exemplary public servants who have contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than Mr. James L. "Jim" Simmons, one of Blountville's and Sullivan County's finest citizens; and

WHEREAS, few people have touched as many lives as Mr. Simmons, a gentleman who has attained excellence both as a public servant and a human being; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simmons is a person of impeccable morals and irreproachable integrity, and he worked assiduously to establish a brighter future for the good people of Sullivan County throughout his thirty-six year tenure as a member of the Sullivan County Industrial Development Board (1968-2004); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simmons was also prominent as the friendly face of banking at the Blountville office of Tri-City Bank and Trust for over twenty-seven years; and

WHEREAS, utilizing foresight and dedication, Jim Simmons has been an instrumental force in numerous civic improvement projects in Sullivan County, and he has always given generously of his time, his talents, and his singular leadership skills in service of the Blountville community; and

WHEREAS, the Sullivan County Board of Commissioners has petitioned this body to name a certain bridge on State Route 75 in the Blountville community in honor of Mr. Simmons to permanently commemorate his bountiful life of purpose and commitment; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal;
now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the bridge spanning Robinson Creek on State Route 75 in the Blountville community of Sullivan County is hereby designated the "James L. Simmons Bridge" as a lasting tribute to an excellent public servant and even more accomplished human being.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge spanning Robinson Creek on State Route 75 in the Blountville community of Sullivan County as the "James L. Simmons Bridge" .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this resolution. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of transportation and the Sullivan County Board of Commissioners.